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Women of Moroccan and Turkish descent in the Netherlands are often portrayed as oppressed, non-integrated victims. It is deemed that their Islamic faith and their alleged lack of sense of home in the Netherlands are obstructing their integration. However, this research shows that many women try to integrate, some explicitly because of and not despite Islam. Their definitions, needs, and strategies of integration and their integration experiences vary though, depending on the combination of their generational status, educational level, ethnicity/nationality, and age. This variation is not reflected by policies and how society treats them, which hampers their integration. Furthermore, many women do feel at home in the Netherlands. Nonetheless, the more they integrate, the greater their exposure to assimilative pressures. This can diminish their sense of home, thereby thwarting their integration process.



MELANIE EIJBERTS (1979) IS POSTDOC AT VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM AND LECTURER AT AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. THIS BOOK IS THE RESULT OF HER PHD RESEARCH AT VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM.

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